



Looking Towards the Future

CRCHD's future plans focus on building partnerships to sponsor new disparities research that brings together advances in biomedicine, civil and human rights, social sciences, and social justice. Research that enhances access among minority and underserved populations to proven interventions in prevention, early detection, treatment, follow-up and survival will also be important. At the same time, supporting community-based, trans-disciplinary research will continue to be a hallmark to the work of CRCHD. Finally, emphasis will be placed on the training of new minority investigators, and developing creative and culturally appropriate community and clinical models that can be widely disseminated.

Cancer Health Disparities - The Problem and Who's At Risk

Cancer affects people of all races and ethnicities in the U.S. Today, one in four deaths in the U.S. is attributable to cancer, and one in three Americans will eventually develop some form of cancer. Each day, 3800 people in America are diagnosed with cancer and another 1500 die from cancer.

The burden of cancer, however, is greater for the poor, ethnic minorities, and the uninsured compared to the general population. Ethnic minorities get cancer and die from cancer more often than the U.S. white population. Moreover, many racial and ethnic minorities have poorer survival rates for cancer than whites.

In recent years, there have been significant advances in science and in understanding and treatment of cancer. Yet, there are many people in this country who do not sufficiently benefit from these research advances. This "disconnect" or gap between what we know and what we deliver is a critical determinant in health disparities - and in who's at risk.

For More Information

For additional information about the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities, visit the CRCHD Web site at <http://crchd.nci.nih.gov/> or contact us at:

Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities
6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 602
Rockville, MD 20852

PHONE: 301-496-8589

FAX: 301-435-9225



NATIONAL
CANCER
INSTITUTE

NIH Publication No. 06-6017
Printed March 2006



National Cancer Institute

**Center to Reduce
Cancer Health
Disparities**

*Researching and
Partnering to
Reduce Cancer
Health Disparities*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
National Institutes of Health

Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities



Researching and Partnering to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities

Established in March 2001, the National Cancer Institute's (NCI's) Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (CRCHD) is central to NCI's efforts to reduce the unequal burden of cancer in our society.

CRCHD integrates studies across NCI's research divisions to identify scientific and policy areas that provide opportunities to reduce and eliminate cancer health disparities. In addition, CRCHD:

- supports investigations to define, reduce and monitor disparities;
- develops and implements new community and clinical interventions, and evaluates their impact;
- expands minority participation, both as investigators and as patients, in health disparities research and clinical trials;
- disseminates evidence-based prevention, screening, treatment and survivorship interventions to aid understanding and reduction of cancer health disparities; and
- coordinates comprehensive reporting of NCI research in minority health and health disparities.



Working to Reduce and Eliminate Disparities

CRCHD supports the NCI Challenge Goal to eliminate suffering and death due to cancer, and is committed to enhancing the understanding of the causes of disparities and addressing inequities in the cancer burden among populations experiencing cancer disparities.

Two current CRCHD initiatives:

• The Community Networks Program (CNP)

The Community Networks Program (CNP) expands upon previous NCI-funded community research to reduce cancer disparities through community-based participatory cancer education, training and research among racial and ethnic minorities, and underserved populations. Awarded to 25 institutions, the CNP aims to increase access to and use of beneficial cancer interventions, such as proven approaches for quitting smoking, increasing healthy eating and physical activity, and early detection and treatment of breast, cervical, prostate and colorectal cancers.

<http://crchd.nci.nih.gov/initiatives/cnp/>

• The Patient Navigator Research Program (PNRP)

The Patient Navigator Research Program represents a new approach to providing individualized assistance to patients, survivors and their families. The program places patients in contact with trained health care workers—or “navigators”—who assist those in need of cancer care services. The overall goal of this program is to develop innovative patient navigator interventions designed to decrease the time between a cancer-related abnormal finding, definitive diagnosis, and delivery of quality standard cancer care services.

<http://crchd.nci.nih.gov/initiatives/pnp>

Milestones in Cancer Health Disparities

1973 Henschke UK, et al. published *Alarming Increase of Cancer Mortality in the U.S. Black Population (1950-1967)*.

1985 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released the *Report of the Secretary's Task Force on Black and Minority Health*.



1989 NCI founded the National Black Leadership Initiative on Cancer.

1992 NCI founded the National Hispanic Leadership Initiative and Appalachian Leadership Initiative on Cancer.



1995 NCI established the Office of Special Populations Research.

1999 Institute of Medicine issued *The Unequal Burden of Cancer*, and the President's Cancer Panel issued *Discovery Must Be Linked to Delivery*.



2000 NCI established 18 Special Populations Networks.

2001 President's Cancer Panel issued *Voices of a Broken System: Real People, Real Problems*.



2001 NCI established the **Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (CRCHD)**.

2003 Institute of Medicine issued *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Healthcare*.



2004 Trans-HHS Cancer Health Disparities Progress Review Group issued *Making Cancer Health Disparities History*.

2005 NCI established 25 **Community Networks Programs**, building on the Special Populations Networks.

2005 NCI established the **Patient Navigator Research Program**.